

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 04743 240415Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 PA-02
SS-15 NSC-05 /061 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6404

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAIR, JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE PRESS ON CIVAIR TALKS

REF: (A) STATE 62375, (B) TOKYO 4518

1. JAPANESE VERNACULAR PRESS REPORTS HAVE BECOME NOTABLY PESSIMISTIC OVER ABILITY OF CIVAIR NEGOTIATORS TO REACH PROVISIONSAL AGREEMENT IN CURRENT TALKS. MAINICHI SAID (MARCH 21) JAPANESE SIDE HAD BEEN HOPEFUL THAT AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED IF JAPAN GAVE PARTIAL APPROVAL FOR THE LIBERALIZATION OF CHARTER FLIGHTS, LOWERING OF FARES, AND FTL'S HONG KONG-SINGAPORE ROUTE; AND THE U.S. GAVE BEYOND RIGHTS AND FLIGHTS INTO CHICAGO, HOUSTON AND SEATTLE. HOWEVER, "NEW" DEMANDS BY THE U.S. FOR A 30 PERCENT EXPANSION OF SCHEDULED U.S. CARRIER FLIGHTS INTO AND FROM NARITA AND 2000 CHARTER FLIGHTS PER YEAR HAVE JEOPARDIZED THE PROCEEDINGS, IT SAID.

2. THE NIHON KEIZAI (MARCH 24) SAID THE SITUATION IS DELICATE AND QUOTED TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY SOURCES AS SAYING "THE INITIAL AIM OF THE TALKS IS TO REVISE THE PRESENT UTTERLY UNEQUAL JAPAN-U.S. AVIATION AGREEMENT, (BUT) THE U.S. HAS COME UP WITH EXORBITANT DEMANDS (BASED) ON THE PRESENT AGREEMENT (WHICH WOULD) EXPAND INEQUALITIES." THE REPORT SAID THE FUEL SITUATION MAKES IT IM-
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POSSIBLE TO EXPAND THE NUMBER OF FLIGHTS AT NARITA AND THAT WITH OVER 30 COUNTRIES DEMANDING INCREASED FLIGHTS, THE U.S. CANNOT BE GIVEN SPECIAL PRIORITY. THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO BE RESUMED AFTER THE FUKUDA-CARTER SUMMIT TALKS. MANSFIELD

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ISecure: 1
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